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10 May 1950

TO: Chief, Coordination, Operations and Policy  
Staff

FROM: Assistant Director for Operations

SUBJECT: Exploitation of Anders Collection [REDACTED]

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1. This memorandum will serve to bring to your attention a general interest within the IAC Agencies for the exploitation of the Anders collection at the Hoover Library [REDACTED]. This collection consists of approximately 42,000 pages of reports and 20,000 pages of statements, gathered by the Second Polish Army Corps, under General Anders, from roughly 30,000 Poles who were brought out of the USSR in mid-1942. A more complete description of the collection is given in Enclosure (A), a memorandum prepared by the Air Studies Division of the Library of Congress which describes the material as an unrivaled primary source of information on the life in the USSR in the time of Soviet cooperation with Nazi Germany and during the initial years of the Soviet-German war.

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2. The survey attached as Enclosure (A) was, of course, made under contract to the Air Force for the main purpose of determining the desirability of processing the material for strategic vulnerability information but was circulated to the other IAC Agencies because the collection appeared to contain so great a potential. After the other IAC Agencies had had an opportunity to study Enclosure (A), the Contact Division of this office was requested to call a meeting at which personnel from the Air Studies Division could answer questions and where the possibility of a coordinated exploitation might be discussed. The consensus of this meeting was that a thorough exploitation of the Anders collection was warranted and that CIA should assume responsibility for the project. The comments of a portion of those who attended the meeting are attached as Enclosure (B) (Department of State, IAD), Enclosure (C) (Department of Navy, ONI), Enclosure (D) (Department of Navy, CNI), Enclosure (E) (Department of the Air Force, OIR). The EE/USSR Division of ORE also sent a representative who expressed considerable interest in certain portions of the collection and Lt. Colonel Philbin, Joint Chiefs of Staff, considered that exploitation would produce intelligence of interest to the Army.

3. According to Enclosures (B), (C), (D) and (E), specific interest exists in exploiting the Anders collection for strategic vulnerability information; treatment of prisoners of war information upon which to base a manual for combat crews; evasion and escape information; technical data on Soviet Air Force equipment; a variety of data of psychological interest. In addition, OPC has also expressed interest in exploitation of the documents listed in Enclosure (F) and will provide more specific requirements upon request.

4. It was also generally agreed at the meeting that the Anders collection could best be exploited by a team of experts in the Polish language who, prior to going [REDACTED] would be thoroughly briefed in Washington on the specific requirements of each of the IAC members. The only alternatives would be, photograph the entire collection for translation and process in Washington; or to let a contract for translation at Stanford, which would permit subsequent

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- 2 -

processing and exploitation in Washington. Photographing the collection presents a major problem because so much of the material is written in pencil on an indescribable variety of pieces of paper; the second alternative would seem to be unnecessarily time consuming based on the experience of Mr. Arlet, who headed the group which made the initial survey as described in Enclosure (A), as much of the material is unimportant or repetitious and may be disregarded. Questions asked at the meeting also indicated that the catalogs and card files are not set up so as to allow for as intelligent selection of material through a study of them. Lastly, it is understood that the team system would be most acceptable to Mr. Sworakowski, custodian of the collection.

5. It is hereby requested that your staff accept this project for any further action to be taken inasmuch as the next steps for exploitation of the collection, involving decision as to whether it should be undertaken and the selection and briefing of a team, are outside of the purview of this office. It is understood, of course, that should it be decided to go ahead with the project, this office will be glad to furnish communications facilities to San Francisco and perform all necessary coordination with Stanford University and the Hoover Library. At this time competent Polish translators of this office are severely taxed in the processing of current material but it was brought out at the meeting that [ ] who conducted the survey for Air Studies, might well be available. It was also pointed out that Mr. Arlet was attached to the Polish Legation at Kuibyshev in 1942 and made preliminary interrogations of a good many of those who were later processed through the Polish Second Army.

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/s/

GEORGE G. CAREY

Enclosures (A) - As described above

(B) - " " "

(C) - " " "

(D) - " " "

(E) - " " "

(F) - " " "

(G) - Copy of memo 19 Apr 50 from AD/ORE to AD/00 - subject: Anders Project

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